

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 1A

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Haitians hack, beat the hated 'Bogeymen'

By Roger Fontaine
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PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Vengeance-seeking Haitians chased down Tontons Macoute, the hated security police of ousted dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier, beating them and hacking them with machetes in the streets of this Caribbean capital yesterday.

Despite appeals from Catholic priests for the population to forgive and forget, casualties continued to stream into the general hospital in Port-au-Prince. The most seriously injured lay two to a bed while other walking wounded didn't even have beds, crowding the corridors between the wards.

This correspondent saw two horribly mutilated Tontons die shortly after being admitted. Doctors said they were running out of medicine and bandages.

The doctors estimated that about 300 people — half of them Tontons and the others ordinary civilians — had been killed since Mr. Duvalier fled aboard a U.S. Air Force transport plane in the predawn hours of Friday morning.

On Saturday, a crowd of angry Haitians surrounded the Tonton headquarters at Petionville. The army moved in, allowed the crowd to taunt the Tontons, whom they then disarmed and marched away.

Soldiers also were said to be protecting the security men in other cities. But there were reports of at least two gun battles between the army and the Tontons, apparently because the latter refused to be disarmed.

There are an estimated 16,000 Tontons — "Bogeymen" in Creole — in Haiti. Many have gone into hiding, including the warden of the Fort Dimanche Prison, a notorious woman known as "Madame Max."

At the hillside St. Gerard Church in the capital, Father Normann Sleigher told thousands of parishioners, many of whom stood outside: "The Holy Father called for change and now, thanks to God, change has come.

"The Tontons Macoute must lay down their arms," he said in a rous-

ing sermon before the congregation launched into a touching hymn that ended: "Hallelujah, hallelujah, everyone will eat [tout le monde va manger]."

Church aisles on the first Sunday after 28 years of repression were crammed, with hundreds of worshippers praying outside church doors.

Opposition leader Gregorie Eugene of the Social Christian Party said yesterday the six-man military-civilian government that replaced Mr. Duvalier had ordered the army to round up and disarm the Tontons.

"Most of them are underground now," he said. "[But] the people know exactly where the Tontons Macoutes are living, so it is very easy to find them."

A violent outbreak of looting and shooting subsided Sunday, but casualties continued to climb. Morgue officials said most of the victims were shot, beaten or died in traffic accidents.

The government extended a "shoot-on-sight" curfew — from 2 p.m. to 6 a.m. — for the third straight day and canceled annual Mardi Gras celebrations. But revelry broke out spontaneously in St. Marc's and other outlying towns, and the army made no attempts to stop it. "Baby Doc, you're just a pile of [excrement] now," shouted one teen-ager. A nearby soldier just laughed.

Although the U.S. Embassy here advised 6,000 resident Americans to stay off the streets, they appeared to be in no danger. The crowds celebrating Mr. Duvalier's departure were friendly with American newsmen and shouted, "Vive l'Amerique."

U.S. officials said the Navy has begun a previously scheduled annual exercise of the 2nd fleet, called Fleet X 1-86, involving 34 warships in the central Caribbean. The maneuvers, which include the aircraft carrier America battle group, began Thursday and are scheduled to run through Feb. 23.

"There are plenty of ships down there if needed," an official said when asked about contingencies for the protection of Americans in Haiti.

In addition to the Navy vessels, Marine amphibious landing units

are nearby in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and at the Roosevelt Roads station in Puerto Rico.

The Canadian government announced, however, that it was sending a Boeing 747 to evacuate about 200 guests from the Club Mediterranean Hotel and the Beach Club north of the capital. French Embassy sources said French nationals may also be evacuated Tuesday.

The evacuation of Canadian nationals sparked some bitterness among the American community. Dennis Fahey, 34, a dentist from Milwaukee, said: "You would think that if the Canadians care so much about their people, our government would do the same."

Susan Isaacson, a dentist from Seattle, complained: "They flew in an American plane to take out the deposed president, so why can't they fly us out? As far as we're concerned we've been left in the dark."

The Duvalier dynasty, which had ruled Haiti since 1957, crumbled in the predawn darkness Friday when Mr. Duvalier was flown out of the country in an American C-141 military transport. The Paris-bound entourage included the president, "Baby Doc," 20 of his relatives, three bodyguards and as much of the family's wealth as could be stowed aboard the aircraft.

Mr. Duvalier had kept Haiti's only commercial airliner on standby at Port-au-Prince airport but opted for the U.S. transport because it could carry more luggage. The entourage had six truckloads of baggage.

The day before he called U.S. Ambassador Clayton McManaway to the palace and asked for a U.S. plane to fly him out. A separate request that the United States provide an aircraft was made by the French government.

The C-141 landed shortly after 2 a.m. at a virtually deserted airport.

At 3:55, the U.S. plane soared aloft and the man who, like his father, had himself declared president-for-life was not even what Haitians had begun to call him during a week of crisis — president-for-now.

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2.

A high-ranking U.S. official said the United States received indications of trouble in Haiti last September when the CIA decided that Baby Doc could not last unless he instituted major reforms or became even more repressive. Intelligence analysts felt the latter option was more likely and Washington began quietly to pressure Mr. Duvalier to relinquish his rule.

The pressure included a decision by the International Monetary Fund not to grant further loans to Haiti, and a decision by the State Department to withhold \$26 million in economic aid on grounds that Mr. Duvalier had not demonstrated necessary progress in human rights.

Mr. Duvalier's departure was delayed, sources say, by the lack of organized political opposition in Haiti and military reluctance to depose him. In effect, the CIA couldn't come up with a coalition government to replace him.

But when rioting broke out two weeks ago, the American ambassador informed Mr. Duvalier it was time to go. Baby Doc apparently agreed, after the Americans negotiated with France and Switzerland to grant him access to his private bank accounts there.

But that agreement foundered when White House spokesman Larry Speakes prematurely announced Mr. Duvalier's downfall. Baby Doc was angered and ordered his Tontons Macoute to restore order in Haiti.

The new provisional junta, headed by army commander Lt. Gen. Henri Namphy, was expected to call a constitutional convention.